

Appln. No. 09/586,964
Amdt. dated May 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles consisting of a hard coating and an edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical core characterized in that at least one layer of the hard coating is obtained from a liquid mixture of sorbitol and erythritol wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 1% to 50% w/w erythritol, said layer being in direct contact with said core to effect adhesion to said core; and said mixture forming a homogeneous layer.

Claim 2 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the dry substance of the liquid mixture comprises between 5% to 50% w/w erythritol.

Claims 3, 4 and 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the core is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical tablets, chewing gum, confectionery product, chocolate and nut.

Claim 7 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated according to claim 1, wherein said hard coating has a smooth, regular surface.

Claim 8 (canceled).

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Claim 9 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein said sugar-free hard-coated comestible has a pharmaceutical core.

Claim 10 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said hard coating comprises at least one of binding agent, dispersing agent, film former, coloring agent or flavoring agent.

Claim 11 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 3, wherein said hard coating comprises at least one of binding agent, dispersing agent, film former, coloring agent or flavoring agent.

Claim 12 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 5% to 45% w/w erythritol.

Claim 13 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 20% to 45% w/w erythritol.

Claim 14 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hard coating consists of from 1 to 100 layers at least one of which comprises said mixture.

Claim 15 (currently amended): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 1 ~~[[3]]~~, wherein the hard coating consists of from 1 to 100 layers at least one of which comprises said mixture.

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Claim 16 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestibles according to claim 10, wherein the hard coating consists of from 1 to 100 layers at least one of which comprises said mixture.

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously presented): A sugar-free hard-coated comestible having an edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical core, and a hard coating wherein the hard coating includes at least one layer formed by applying a syrup mixture containing sorbitol and erythritol to said core, wherein the syrup mixture contains 1% to 50% w/w erythritol, said layer contacting said core, said erythritol and sorbitol being homogeneously distributed in said layer.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 1, wherein said at least one layer is a first formed on said core, and additional layers in said hard coating are formed from a member selected from the group consisting of said liquid mixture and single polyols.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A sugar-free hard-coated comestible having an edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical core, and a hard coating that is formed from a syrup or a liquid mixture of sorbitol and erythritol, wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 1% to 50% w/w erythritol, said hard coating having good adhesion to the core, and said hard coating being homogenous.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 20, wherein said hard coating is formed from a syrup.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 20, wherein said hard coating is formed from a liquid mixture.

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Claim 23 (previously presented): A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 20, wherein the dry substance of the syrup or liquid mixture comprises between 5% to 50% w/w erythritol.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 20, wherein said syrup or said liquid mixture contains at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of artificial sweeteners, dispersing agents, coloring agents, film formers, binding agents and flavoring agents.

Claim 25 (previously presented): Sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 20, wherein the dry substance of liquid mixture of sorbitol and erythritol comprises 40% w/w erythritol.

Claim 26 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 18, wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 5 - 45% w/w erythritol.

Claim 27 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 20, wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 5 - 45% w/w erythritol.

Claim 28 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 18, wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 20 and 45% w/w erythritol.

Claim 29 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 20, wherein the dry substance of the mixture comprises between 20 and 45% w/w erythritol.

Claim 30 (new): Sugar-free bare coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is 60% w/w sorbitol and 40% w/w erythritol.

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Claim 31 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 18, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is 60% w/w sorbitol and 40% w/w erythritol.

Claim 32 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 20, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is 60% w/w sorbitol and 40% w/w erythritol.

Claim 33 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is 80% w/w sorbitol and 20% w/w erythritol.

Claim 34 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 18, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is 80% w/w sorbitol and 20% w/w erythritol.

Claim 35 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 20, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is 80% w/w sorbitol and 20% w/w erythritol.

Claim 36 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 1, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is from 60% w/w sorbitol and 40% w/w erythritol to 80% w/w sorbitol and 20% w/w erythritol.

Claim 37 (new): Sugar-free hare coated comestibles according to claim 18, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is from 60% w/w sorbitol and 40% w/w erythritol to 80% w/w sorbitol and 20% w/w erythritol.

Claim 38 (new): Sugar-free hard coated comestibles according to claim 20, wherein the dry substance of the mixture is from 60% w/w sorbitol and 40% w/w erythritol to 80% w/w sorbitol and 20% w/w erythritol.